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TRUSTEES SECTION

Meeting of this section was held on Friday evening. In the absence of the chairman, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl presided.

Mrs. Earl: It is with the keenest regret that I am called upon to preside in place of our chairman who has accomplished so much for the Trustees Section this year. Mr. Pettingell regrets as much as I am sure you all do his unavoidable absence from the Swampscott meeting, but he assures us he will be with us next year.

We cannot find words to express our pleasure at seeing so large a number of trustees present. Everyone of you will go home from this most wonderful library meeting with a deeper sense of your obligation, responsibility and opportunity for the development of the great educational problems before the world today.

The need is for intelligent library boards of trustees who have an understanding of the educational value and problems of the library and can secure adequate public support and co-operation.

Our Indiana Library Trustees Association is proving more and more its value to the library development of the state and we are anxious to see the good work spread to other states.

J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., of the Boston Athenaeum spoke on WHAT PROPORTION OF TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURES SHOULD PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES CLAIM FOR THEIR LIBRARIES. His answer to the question was: One and a half per cent. The proportion of library expenditures to total municipal levies was given for the following cities:

Boston, 1.6%

Salem, 1.55%

Canton, 1.1%

New Salem, just over $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%.

Brookline, 2%

He said in conclusion: We are citizens as well as trustees. We ought to know, and we do know, the population, the valuation of the section served by our libraries, how many books we have, and we know all too well how many books we want and cannot get. In Massachusetts we have a high standard of service, and we must insist that that standard of service be maintained by public appropriations unless the library is sufficiently endowed. It is not right—as I found in a New Hampshire city—to have a scale of payment for full time service in a library that is less than

one-half what is paid a woman teacher in the high school in the same town. There is absolutely no justification for such neglect of the library as that, for the high school teachers usually are not over paid. So, if you will take the trouble to do some figuring on your own account in your own districts, you may reach the conclusion that the average expenditures in Massachusetts for library purposes, one and one-half per cent, is a minimum, at least, for your library, wherever it may be. The maximum in figures, in amount and in appropriation, you should always be trying to obtain.

W. T. J. Lee, of the Public Library Board of Toronto, Canada, spoke on THE DUTIES OF A LIBRARY TRUSTEE. He urged that all trustees join the American Library Association and that every board of trustees send a delegate to each annual meeting of the Association. He spoke of the experience of the Toronto Library Board in compelling the City Council to make the necessary tax levies and of the development of the Toronto Public Library during the last several years.

Clarence E. Bement, trustee of the Lansing, Michigan, Public Library, spoke on the topic FROM THE OUTSIDE IN. He emphasized the service of the library to provide a means of education for those who are no longer in school. He said:

The building, book stacks, the card indexes and all the mechanical apparatus is the machinery, and the books are the raw material; but the important element is the patron and he is sometimes lost sight of just as the manufacturer has lost sight of his all important human element through keeping his eyes too closely fixed on the machinery and the raw material..... The statistics of circulation and reader attendance mean much to the librarian but very little to the general public, yet the community contains both your stockholders and your customers. Your weapon in lieu of competition is propaganda. You have something to sell to the community and publicity will sell it just as it will sell drygoods and groceries. Every library large enough to justify it should have an advertising department. If our education before twenty is important, is there any question that our education between twenty and thirty is vastly more important?

Henry W. Lamb, trustee of the Brookline Public Library, spoke on the general theme of **THE FUNCTION OF THE LIBRARY TRUSTEE**. He compared the trustee's functions to those of a legislator, judge and a diplomat and gave especial attention to the trustee as a diplomat. He said that the trustee is able to tell the librarian or the board how a project is likely to strike that part of the outside public that does not use the library, and especially that part of it which has to be asked to make appropriations. He is like a diplomat who may be called upon to negotiate a treaty but finds it is his duty first to report upon the state of feeling that he is likely to encounter.

He emphasized the need of having on every board some men who are men of affairs and of wide acquaintance in the community rather than members of the scholarly professions and he urged that men of business activity and social inclination serve as library trustees when the opportunity was offered.

Rev. Alexander Mann, president of the Boston Public Library Board, spoke on **THE FUNCTION OF THE LIBRARY TRUSTEE**. He said that a trustee should set an example to the library staff by his perfect confidence in the librarian. That he should not go into petty matters or go behind the

man who is in charge. The library must have the full confidence of the board. In trying to get appropriations the trustee must go at it in a human kind of way and must try to make the city council see how interesting and important the work of the library is.

The last speaker was George H. Tripp, librarian of the New Bedford Public Library, on the theme **THEY ALSO SERVE**. He said that neither the librarian nor the trustee should be a specialist in any line. The library should be kept out of politics. The librarian should be unhampered in administration. He suggested that a library board might be made up of one-third business men, one-third professional men and one-third men of leisure. Mr. Tripp's paper will appear in an early issue of *Public Libraries*.

The report of the Committee on Pensions and Benefits for Librarians was presented, but not read because of lack of time. The committee is composed of Mrs. Ora Thompson Ross, Rensselaer, Ind., chairman, Mrs. C. Henry Smith, Boulder, Colo., J. S. Carter, Milwaukee, Wis.

The officers for 1920-21 continue for 1921-22: Chairman, F. H. Pettingill; Secretary, Mrs. Ora Thompson Ross.

IONE P. OVERFIELD,
Secretary pro tem.

WORK WITH NEGROES ROUND TABLE

A round table discussion for workers among colored people was arranged for Wednesday morning in response to a considerable demand. Among others there were present Lloyd W. Josselyn from Birmingham, Ala., George T. Settle and Jennie M. Flexner from Louisville, Ky., Mary D. Pretlow and assistants from Norfolk, Va., Joseph F. Marion from Jacksonville, Fla., Mary U. Rothrock from Knoxville, Tenn., and Ernestine Rose from the New York Public Library.

The discussion brought out different points of view, differing methods, and widely divergent conditions. Miss Rose opened the discussion by describing the

work of the 135th Street Branch of the N. Y. P. L. which lies in the center of the largest negro city in the world, and where the experiment of a staff including both white and colored workers is being tried with apparent success.

Mr. Settle and Miss Flexner told of the two colored branches in Louisville, and of the school for the instruction of their colored workers. In this school negro girls are being trained for various library positions throughout the country, but particularly in the South.

At Norfolk, Va., a colored branch will be opened in July.

Miss Rothrock, of Knoxville, spoke of